

EXCERPTS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE DRAFT OUTLINE

epidemiological - means affecting many people, wide spread.

major problem of study - possible high sample of attrition rate.

Well Baby Clinics within the Newark area will be used to gather the clients for the study. Child Hygiene Bureau, Newark Department of Health & Welfare employs 30 nurses and 19 Well Baby clinics which offer free service to families where a first child is born.

Names will be selected from office of Vital Statistics, Newark. Families with few exceptions avail themselves of this free service once it is offered by the Public Health nurse.

Random samples will be one or two parents or parents surrogate with first child born and mother's age does not exceed 30.

Samples will be drawn from this group whether or not agencies services have been accepted.

Random sample of 600 families which represent 1/3 of the present case-load of the Well Baby clinics.

5 year attrition rate - Newark area is 25 to 33%, which would mean in the course of the study 200 families would be lost, but would still leave a safety factor of 400 for study.

St. Paul study on family functioning will be used as a base.

Families will be interviewed at 6 month intervals over 5 year period. Interviews will be tape recorded. There will be 10 interviews in all per family.

In a receny study completed by Dr. Young, she found it took 8 hours per family to obtain the initial data. Follow-up interviews took 4 hours.

In addition it is the intent to peruse the files of the local agencies to ascertain whether or not they had been known to them. The clients to be involved in the study: 5% are Spanish speaking and it will be necessary to hire a Spanish speaking worker.

Data processing - will use the St. Paul family functioning scale.

Data for selection: 1) manifestation of some degree of disorganization.
2) give evidence of continued mal-functioning and likelihood of further deterioration in family functioning.

Social work does not have the tools predictive of developments of family functioning at the present time.

In a recent research study done by Giesner, Young & La Sorte, they identified some facts that are seemingly related to a family's inability to function as an organized system and these factors are:

- 1) lack of planning
- 2) lack of continuing responsibility
- 3) lack of consistent standards of behavior
- 4) lack of continuity or carry through an activities undertaken

These factors should be viewed as tentative predictors of continuing or increasing mal-functioning for families selected for the experimental control study.